

nitens, parce hirtum : caput transversum, breve, thoracis latitudine; vertex latus; frons convexa, abrupte declivis : oculi picei, mediocres, non extantes : antennæ clavatæ, nigræ, corpore breviores; articulus 1^{us} sublinearis, validus; 2^{us} longicyathiformis; 3^{us} et 4^{us} angusti; 5^{us} et sequentes latiores, clavam fingentes longam fusiformem : thorax ovatus : prothorax brevissimus, supra non conspicuus : mesothoracis scutum magnum, longitudine latus; parapsidium suturæ non conspicuæ; scutellum mediocre, brevi obconicum : metathorax transversus, brevissimus : petiolus vix ullus : abdomen subovatum, scite rugulosum, thorace non longius; segmenta basi sulcata, 1^{um} magnum, 2^{um} et sequentia brevia : pedes picei, simplices, subæquales; trochanteres fulvi; genua fulva; tibiæ basi fulvæ; tarsi fulvi, apice fusci : alæ albolimpidæ; squamulæ fuscæ; nervi fulvi; nervus humeralis nullus, ulnaris costæ dimidio brevior, cubitalis longus radiali paullo brevior; stigma minimum. (Corp. long. lin. $\frac{2}{3}$; alar. lin. 1.)

Reared from the eggs of an insect.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Manual of British Botany, containing the Flowering Plants and Ferns, arranged according to the Natural Orders. By Chas. C. Babington, M.A., F.L.S., F.G.S., &c. &c. London : J. Van Voorst, 1843.

THE present work is modelled after the well-known 'Synopsis Floræ Germanicæ' of the learned Koch, and is the result of a critical examination of our native plants, by a careful comparison of indigenous specimens with the works of eminent continental authors and with plants obtained from other parts of Europe, whereby a desideratum long wanted has been attained, viz. the assimilation of the nomenclature of British and continental writers. To effect this, our flora has undergone a general and scrutinizing revision, so as to determine what plants are really deserving of the rank of distinct species, and what must be regarded only as varieties; and those names have been adopted which possess the claims of priority by a careful examination of all the best European floras, comparing our plants with the descriptions contained in them, and in very many cases with foreign specimens of undoubted authenticity. In the adoption of genera and species an endeavour has been made, by the examination of the plants themselves, to determine which are truly distinct, thus taking nature as a guide, and not depending upon the authority of any name, however distinguished. As the volume is intended as a field-book, or travelling companion for botanists, the characters have been admirably and ably contrasted, and condensed as much as possible consistent with their accurate discrimination. Synonyms have been wholly omitted, except quotations of one British and one German figure to each plant. Localities are only given for new or peculiarly rare plants, though the general distribution through the British Isles, or in the several main portions thereof, and their character in that distribution, have been noted. The arrangement is that of the Natural System, but to render it generally available, a succinct synopsis of the Linnæan genera is added. To detail its many excellences would exceed our due limits, for fully to appreciate the scientific and critical accuracy and discrimination with which the

work has been elaborated, it must be carefully and constantly studied. We doubt not but that it will very speedily find its way (as it richly merits) into the hands of all true lovers of botany, and by them will assuredly be hailed as a successful attempt to display and enumerate the present state of our flora, and to establish it, for the first time, on a scientific equality with the advanced state of continental botany.

The Geographical Distribution of British Plants. By H. C. Watson, Part I. London, 1843. 8vo. Printed for the Author.

We feel much sorrow in having to inform our readers that this valuable work is not published, and must express our surprise at the reason; viz. the size to which it is expected to extend and the uncertainty of completion, since each portion is perfect in itself; and also our admiration of the author's great liberality in adopting so disinterested a plan. It is however to be hoped that he may be induced to alter his views and allow of its sale, since there must be many persons, to whom it cannot otherwise be attainable, who would highly appreciate its value. The part now before us contains the Orders *Ranunculaceæ*, *Nymphæaceæ* and *Papaveraceæ*. A general account of the distribution of each order throughout the world is first given, illustrated by very full comparative numerical tables: each species is then taken separately; its presence in one or more of the eighteen districts into which the author has divided Great Britain (for Ireland is excluded from want of data) is stated; a list of the local *floras* and *catalogues* in which it is included and of the places from which Mr. Watson has seen specimens follows, which is succeeded by a detailed account of its distribution in this country and other parts of the world; and the account of the species is concluded by a full list of the localities in which, on trustworthy authority, it is known to have been found. At the head of the account of each species two woodcuts are introduced, one of them being a small representation of the map of Great Britain divided into the author's eighteen districts, the other a diagram representing the relative heights to which the most elevated parts of each district attain. In both of these cuts its number is introduced into each of those districts in which the plant has been found, but is omitted in the others.

We have carefully examined many parts of the volume, and are much pleased to add our testimony to the great accuracy which is apparent in it, and consider it as a highly valuable contribution to British botany.

A History of British Forest Trees indigenous and introduced.

By P. J. Selby, F.L.S. &c. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1842.

We wish to call the attention of our readers to the above work. In it will be found very full accounts of all the trees which are usually planted for profit, and many which belong more peculiarly to the ornamental class. Each tree is illustrated by a beautiful woodcut of a full-grown specimen, and several others to exhibit the mode of branching, the leaves, or the botanical characters. The author's well-

known experience in planting and the great success which has attended his plans are so well known, that we need scarcely say that great attention has been paid to that portion of this work. On the whole, we consider the present volume as well deserving of its place in the well-known series of works on British Natural History, of which Mr. Van Voorst has procured the publication, but cannot conclude without expressing a hope that a little more attention will be paid to the botanical part in the preparation of a second edition.

Travels in New Zealand. By E. Dieffenbach, M.D., late Naturalist to the New Zealand Company. 2 vols. 8vo. London, 1843.

We consider this work as the most valuable addition that has been made of late to our knowledge of this highly interesting country. In connexion with a very full account of the topography of the northern island, of which the author traversed nearly all parts, it contains very full and interesting notices of its botany, zoology, and geological character. But what appears to us to be by far the most valuable portion of the book, is the insight which is derived from it into the manners, customs, state and prospects of the Aborigines. The high opinion that we had previously formed of these people is fully confirmed by the observations of Dr. Dieffenbach, than whom no person has had better opportunities of coming to a just conclusion on the subject. From his remarks, there can be no doubt that by judicious treatment they may soon become a highly civilized people and a most valuable body of British subjects, and that ultimately an admixture of their race with that of the English colonists will be an advantageous occurrence. We have not space for further remarks, but strongly recommend the book to our readers. Mr. J. E. Gray has furnished the author with a full list of the mammalia, reptiles, amphibia and mollusca; Mr. G. R. Gray of the birds; Dr. Richardson of the fishes; and Messrs. A. White and E. Doubleday of the annulose animals, which have been hitherto recorded as found in New Zealand, including many new species.

Repertorium Botanices Systematicæ. Auctore G. G. Walpers.
Vol. i. and vol. ii. Part. I. 8vo. Leipsic, 1842-43.

This is a work which is quite essential to all botanists, and we can recommend it to them in the strongest terms. It is intended to form a Supplement to the invaluable 'Prodromus' of DeCandolle, and contains the characters of nearly all the new species that have been published since the appearance of the several volumes of that work.

PREPARING FOR PUBLICATION.

The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America. By John James Audubon, F.R.S. &c., and the Rev. John Bachman, D.D. &c.

The plan adopted by the authors, for the publication of this work, in a great degree corresponds with that pursued by Mr. Audubon in his large work on the 'Birds of America.' Many of the species are given of their natural size, and in most cases, several figures, with

trees, plants, and occasionally views drawn from nature, appear on each plate.

The work contains figures and descriptions of all the viviparous quadrupeds found in the United States, and from Texas, California, and the North-west Coast, to the British possessions and arctic regions of North America.

The work will be delivered to subscribers in numbers of five plates each, at intervals of two months from the publication of each number, making six numbers annually, and the whole work will be completed in about thirty numbers.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Sept. 27, 1842.—William Yarrell, Esq., Vice-President, in the Chair.

Mr. Fraser, the naturalist to the Niger expedition, exhibited several new species of Quadrupeds, constituting part of his collection formed at Fernando Po; and Mr. Waterhouse, at the request of the Chairman, read his description of the new species, these having been placed in his hands for examination by Mr. Fraser.

Mr. Waterhouse first drew attention to a very interesting new genus of Rodents, which he characterized under the name

ANOMALURUS*.

Molares $\frac{4-4}{4-4}$, *radicati*. *Cranium* sine processu post-orbitali ossis temporalis, sed foramine antorbitali magno, partem musculi masse-teris transmittente. *Palatum* anticè coarctatum, posticè emarginatum in formâ triangulari. *Cauda* modicè elongata et subfloccosa, parte basali triente subtùs scutis magnis in serie duplici longitudinalitèr dispositis (singulis angulo prominente) obtectâ. *Aures* magnæ, subnudæ. *Patagium* inter artus extensum. *Rhinarium* nudum. *Pedes* subtùs nudi; unguibus falcularibus, valdè compressis; pedes antici 4-dactyli, digitis subæqualibus; postici 5-dactyli, digitis subæqualibus, interno excepto, hoc brevior.

ANOMALURUS FRASERI. *An. vellere longo, permolli; corpore supèr nigro; dorso flavescenti-fusco lavato; fronte incanescente; corpore infrà albo, vel albido; artubus intus, patagio ad marginem et gutture fuliginoso tinctis.*

| | unc. lin. |
|--|-----------|
| Longitudo ab apice rostri ad caudæ basin.... | 14 0 |
| ————— <i>caudæ</i> | 8 6 |
| ————— <i>auris</i> | 1 3 |
| ————— <i>tarsi digitorumque</i> | 2 6 |

Hab. Fernando Po.

Upon a cursory inspection this animal would be regarded as a

* From *ἀνομος*, out of law, and *ὄρα*, a tail.—Should this have been previously used in a generic sense in Natural History, the name Aroæthrus (from *ἀροῶ*, to plough, and *αἶθρα*, air) may be substituted.